

## Noun Declensions

### A. General Rules and Patterns

1. In Latin, almost every noun is grouped into 5 "declensions" - another word for "groups"
2. Each "declension" has two ways to identify itself:
  - The unique 'genitive ending' of all the nouns in its declension
  - The 'thematic vowel'; The special letter for each declension
3. Below is a table that shows each declension with its Thematic vowel and genitive ending:

<u>Declension</u>	<u>Thematic Vowel</u>	<u>Genitive Ending</u>
1st	-a	-ae
2nd	-o	-i
3rd	-i	-is
4th	-u	-us
5th	-e	-ei

4. While almost every declension has its special noun gender, it is not an absolute rule - There are exceptions in every declension  
Ex: While the 1st declension is mostly feminine, words like 'novus' are masculine.
5. The only way to properly identify a noun's declension is by finding its genitive ending and matching it to the table above

## Noun declensions

All nouns, when given in a formal definition, will show the following information:

1. Nominative Singular form,
2. Genitive Ending,
3. Gender,
4. Definition

Ex. puella, -ae, f. - girl

From this formal definition, we can identify puella as a 1st declension noun, because its genitive ending is -ae

## 1st Declension (the)

and Identifying Features:

1st declension is mostly feminine in gender.

Thematic vowel (its 'unique' or 'special letter' of -a

genitive ending is -ae

minative forms end in -a

puella, -ae, f. - girl (stem: puell-)

iar      Plural      • Note that the stem

a      puellae      has dots underneath,

ae      puellarum      and the case-ending

ae      puellis      is underlined,

am      puellas

la      puellis

are some exceptions to this rule:

-ae, m. - sailor

-a, -ae, m. - farmer

thers, etc.